



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street (WTR-22)
San Francisco, CA 94105**

December 1, 2017

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
ATTN: MDP Project Applications
1305 East-West Highway, SMC4 Rm. 10239 N/ORR5
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Re: The Bay Foundation's/ Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program NOAA Marine
Debris Prevention Proposal**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) is one of EPA's 28 National Estuary Programs, receiving approximately \$600,000 a year from EPA to plan and implement the Bay Restoration Plan, SMBNEP's guiding document. SMBNEP leverages EPA funding approximately 17:1 with other local, state and federal sources. They deliver reports on time and draw down grant funds in a timely manner.

SMBNEP staff work with stormwater staff in 11 cities to implement the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program (aka Clean Bay Certified). Currently the 350 participating restaurants follow key practices to reduce pollutants flowing to Santa Monica Bay including proper waste management, water conservation, equipment and outdoor cleaning, grease handling and spill disposal, and education and training for employees. Additional practices include local and organic food purchasing policies, non-use of poison bait boxes, and sustainable foodware.

The FY 2018 NEP workplan (10/2017-09/2018) includes a source reduction pilot with 1-3 restaurants funded by an additional \$25,000 from EPA. The products developed under this project as well as the lessons learned will be transferred to other geographic areas in both the Los Angeles area and NEPs to reduce trash in their waterbodies. This project builds on a similar effort incubated in the San Francisco Bay area.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at yelensky.ERICA@epa.gov or 415-972-3021.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Erica Yelensky,
Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Coordinator